

"The JFK Movie" & The Carcano Rifle

I went to see the Movie purposely to find out what information it gave about the Italian Carbine, that killed President John F. Kennedy.

There are some facts about the Carcano rifle that people should know, that might shatter the very theory of Conspiracy.

The Carcano rifle which is actually called a Carbine because of its compact design and weight. It is a 6.5 millimeter or approximately a 25 caliber. The formula to define the caliber is Millimeter x 4 = Caliber. Therefore, $6.5 \times 4 = 26.0$ Caliber. For example the Jap bolt operated rifle is 7.7 MM, which using the same formula would be: $7.7 \times 4 = 30.8$ Caliber, but is referred to as a 31 Caliber Jap rifle. The formula is not absolute, and is used primarily in laymen's terms for comparison with other known calibers.

The fitting of the bolt is of a loose or sloppy tolerance, intended for a speedy action and battle conditions. The range of the rifle is of very long range, of a flat trajectory up from 200 to 300 yards, ideal for sniping and for concentration of fire inflicting more than one casualty on impact, due to the speed operating bolt and penetration of power.

The bolts of the American .03 Springfield, the German 8 MM Mauser and the Jap 31 Caliber are of precise fitting for accuracy and safety.

Many people do not know that the Carcano rifle was available for purchasing in York at the "Sunny Surplus" store at the corner of George and King Streets at the end of World War II for about \$10 plus Ammo.

Dominick Lo Iacono, my partner at the York Sanitary Barber Shop on 16 W. Phila. St. bought one intending to use it to shoot groundhogs and had asked me as a member of the York Rifleman if I would sight it in for him. We took it to the range and using an official NRA 100 yards small bore target. Sighting at 6 O'clock of the bottom target, at bench rest, the rifle was scoring at the 5th. ring of the upper target. The rifle was shooting 3 feet high. The sights were not adjustable. We must now have a weld of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch added to the front sights and come back with a file to file it down for adjustment. With the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch addition, it was now shooting below the bottom target. We now had a reckoning point, - we removed $\frac{1}{8}$ inch by filing and now scoring on the bottom 5th. ring of the middle target. The windage was perfect, the shots were scoring in a straight line between 6 O' Clock and 12 O' Clock. A few more strokes with the file and now we were grouping around the 10 th. ring of the middle target with a few occasional X's. Time to quit, Good enough for a groundhog! Now, I said to Dominick, - "You have another problem", - you cannot use the military Ammo for game!" "It is too dangerous and illegal, and commercial Ammo is not available!" "Well, he said, "The Hell with it," - and he bought a 222 Remington! This ended our romance with the Carcano, - he sold it for less money than he had invested!

This the identical Carcano that killed President John F. Kennedy, and the inference by the Movie JFK, alluding that the CIA might have been involved in the conspiracy and cover-up. Let us keep the merit of the Carcano rifle in perspective as mentioned in the above paragraphs, and let us not be influenced by the detractors of the characters allegedly involved in the Movie JFK.

If there was really a conspiracy, - does anyone really believe that the conspirators would endorse the use of a \$10 surplus rifle? Why not an M1 Garand semi-automatic rifle, that shoots as fast as you can pull the trigger?

Lee Harvey did use a Carcano 6.5 MM, - although he had a scope on it, which he might have installed it himself. He used the military Ammo that came with the purchase of the rifle, because commercial Ammo was not available. He could not sight the rifle at a public range, because his action would have been conspicuous. He could have easily bore sighted the rifle in the privacy of his home, bench resting it on a kitchen or dining room table, removing the bolt, and looking through the bore at a fixed object and aligning the scope and the cross-hairs with the object seen through the bore.

Lee Oswald sighted the rifle from the window of the 6th. floor, of the book repository building where he worked. He bench rested the rifle on the window sill, using books for elevation of his eye-level, waiting for the motorcade to go around the bend, to afford him a going away shot, - approximate speed of the motorcade, ten miles per hour, and aiming not at the head of the president, but equally vital part, the shoulder which offered a larger target,

(2)

- the upper torso that houses the lungs, the heart, the spine, the neck and lastly the back of the head. The shot struck the back of the president's head and exited below the Adam's Apple, at a correct mathematical declination, - not because he wanted to, but because the rifle was designed to shoot high.

The Italian Ammo for the Carcano was purposely spiked for great distance, of far beyond 200 yards. The bullet hole where it exited was not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, - proving that he used the bronze-jacket shell that came with the purchase of the rifle.

The theory of conspiracy and the possibility that other persons were involved in the shooting from the sidelines, and the mention that some persons had seen smoke, from what they thought might have been from a gun fired from the sidelines. The only smoke that could have been seen from a gun, would have to be from a "Muzzle-loader", - which would have been very unlikely!

If the theory of conspiracy is believed, then you must also believe, that the plan by intelligent conspirators, assigned shooters with hand-guns, at ground level, shooting broadside at a moving target, while hundreds of people watching the motorcade obstructed a clear view of the target. If we all must believe this, as alluded in the movie, then our logic and intelligence is in question!

It has also been reported that sounds from other shooters were heard, - many dear hunters will confirm that reverberation plays many tricks on the human ear. Sounds of shots bounce off mountain sides, are absorbed by draws and ravines, dispersed by currents of air, and many other tricks in nature's handbag that stimulates the imagination!

The function and design of the Carcano, if elected by the conspirators, for the maximum success of an assassination, defies logic and intelligence. The unsophistication of the Carcano negates the theory of Conspiracy!

There is no doubt that the Movie "JFK" will win many academy awards, - superb acting, - masterful photography, - chilling sound affects, - painful memories, and moving scenes that shrink the three long hours into a seemingly shorter span.

There will always remain controversies, to the unanswered questions in the assassination. The motives must be ascribed to branches of psychiatry, and perhaps someday they might arrive at the answers, - and then again the answers might remain a mystery, - like the Lindbergh case!

Anthony P. Alfano